A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, May 18. 1708.

BUT will you tell the People now a little, what Courſe they ſhould take to obtain good Members, and to chooſe ſuch Men as they ought to chooſe, ſays one now, who owns they want Inſtruction? — Indeed not I, Gentlemen, I have nothing to ſay to this Article, I do not ſee they want Inſtructors; I believe, I can remember a hundred Pamphlets wrote at ſeveral Times, ſome againſt one Election, ſome againſt another, to inſtruct them who to chooſe and who refuſe; ſome of which Books contain all that can be needful on that Head, and who am I that I ſhould renew the Argument? I can add nothing to it, that can move People that have heard ſo much, and ſeen ſo much, and paid for ſo much, as this Nation has done.

But if you will expect Advice from me, you know my Way, Gentlemen, is the ſhorteſt Way, ſince Cautions have ſo long been ſpent in vain, and Arguments have no Force; let us turn the World round, who knows what Extremes may do; come, let us reſolve upon Negatives, that not one honeſt Man, not one wiſe Man, not one ſober Man, not one rich Man ſhall be choſen; for my Part, I muſt own, I think it is the readieſt Way to have a true Repreſentative, for how ſhould honeſt Men repreſent Knaves, wiſe Men Fools, ſober Men Lunaticks, or rich Men Beggars?

Come then, let us chooſe Blindfold, mad Men, Tories, Beggars, Shock-Dogs, any thing, and let them do the Work their own Way; they can give nothing away but our Money,

Money, they can overthrow nothing but our Conſtitution, they can unravel nothing but the Succeſſion and the Union, they can ſell nothing but our Liberties, and what then? We ſhall do as well as our Neighbours, who never knew what theſe Toys or Trifles of Law, Liberty or Property meant, and yet they ſing and dance, and are as merry as other People, tho' they have not ſo much Gear.

Again, who knows but this may be the *ſhorteſt Way* to a general Deliverance, for, as has been noted, nothing opens our Eyes in this Age like Precipitations; this would awaken us at once, and bring us to our Senſes, and perhaps rouze us to the Enquiry after what we are a doing; this may bring us to a little Reflection, a Thing this whole Nation has mightily wanted for a long time.

I could run a great Length here, in deſcribing to you the wonderful Advantages of a *Tory* Repreſentative, of a *High-Flying* Parliament, and the Neceſſity we are under of making ſuch an Election for the publick Good, in order to move you to ſuch a Choice, and in order to bring you to a Condition of Reflection, a Thing you are very hardly, I aſſure you, brought to, perhaps more hardly than any People in the World.

And firſt a *Tory* Parliament would put a ſpeedy End to this cruel War, this bloody, hazardous and expenſive War; I will not enter into the Enquiry here, how Honourable the Peace ſhould be they wou'd make. —But certainly it would be a Peace, *an End of the War*, they would give you Peace the ſame Way Sir *H. M.* was for giving us Union, *viz.* by removing all that diſſented, then the reſt muſt needs be all united; they would give us Peace the *ſhorteſt Way*, *viz.* that the *French* King ſhould grant all we demanded, ſince they would take care to demand nothing, but what the *French* King would grant.

We ſhould have PEACE, and who can put too much Value upon PEACE; they would turn the Story in the Goſpel and make this Peace the Field of Price, and the Nation ſelling all they had to purchaſe it. O Peace, Peace, who would not purchaſe Peace? What ſignifies Truth or Liberty, if we have but Peace, you cannot give too much for Peace? what if you had no Trade, *you ſhould have Peace*; what if you had no Manufactures, yet *you ſhould have Peace*; what ſignifies it to us, who has *Spain*, or who has *America*; what ſignifies Colonies or Plantations abroad, Merchants Ships or Men of War? *we ſhould have Peace*, invaluable PEACE, inexpreſſible *Peace*, Peace that no Body could value, few underſtand, and no Man alive be able to tell how long it ſhould laſt.

Well, Gentlemen, and will a *Tory*, *High-Flying* Parliament *give you Peace?* Let me then perſwade you to conſider this honeſt Propoſal. What have we got by a tedious, terrible War, a vaſt Expence of Blood and Treaſure? Your Men of the Field have ſpent you Millions, your Armies and Navies have devour'd you, and what have they got for us? They have not yet gotten us PEACE; it has been ſaid we fought for PEACE, and why then, ſince we have on ſo many Occaſions beaten the *French*, why have we not got this excellent Thing call'd PEACE? Nay, the *French* King offer'd us Peace a Year ago, and we would not accept it; nay, we would not talk with him about it, and what is the Reaſon of this? —Certainly, we do not fight for Peace; I know it is ſaid, the Conditions are not feazible or honourable, and ſo we do not fight for Peace without the Epithets of honourable, beneficial, ſafe, and I know not how many ſuch fine Words, whoſe Signification every Body cannot underſtand.

Come, come, Gentlemen, this is jugling with us plainly; do not come over us with theſe blind Epithets, let us have Peace in the litteral Extent only, *French* Peace, *Popiſh* Peace, *Any* Peace, if he but PEACE, we want *Peace*, and we muſt have *Peace*, and we will have *Peace*——— Now to thoſe that are of this Mind, my Exhortation is juſt; chooſe but a *Tory*, *High-Flying* Parliament, the Work is done; theſe *Whigs* ſtand upon Particulars, they muſt have Butter on both Sides their Bread they muſt have their Peace larded with Plenty, or elſe it won't go down with them; they muſt have peaceable Trade, peaceable Alliances, Guarrantees

Guarrantees for Continuance, and a hundred cautionary Articles; and thus they jingle us in to carry on the War, till as my Lord *H—m* says, we shall be utterly exhausted; of what? Exhausted of *Tories*, *Tackers*, and honest *Jacobites* to carry on our Party War.

Pray, Gentlemen, consider these Things, and if you will have any Peace, choose *Tories*, choose *Tackers*, they know your Condition better than you do your selves, they know your Funds are exhausted, your Trade consumed, your Treasure low, your Credit sunk, your Ships not in a Condition to act. They know your Necessity of making Peace, and taking *Charte Blanch* from the Enemy, that you may take Breath a little, and then you may act him again—— These *Whigs* will go on to ruin you; if you will but choose a *Torify'd* Parliament, you will have a Peace presently, and let them alone to make Conditions.

And what need we farther Demonstrations of our Incapacity to carry on this War? Do but look back to the naked Condition of the whole Island, when the *French* threatned us with the late *Northern* Expedition, what a Condition was our Navy in? How unable to be ready to meet them? What a Hurry did it put us into to fit out our Ships, and get Men to man them? When we came to press Men, what Difficulty was there found to make up the Number; nay, when you press'd Watermen and Seamen thro' the whole River here from Morning to Night for two Days together, you could not pick up above 5000 of them in the whole two Days, and tho' a pretty many came in Volunteers upon the Service, yet what did it amount to? With all the Diligence the whole Admiralty could use, they were above 14 Days a getting but about 40 Men of War together, and when they were got together, they never could come up with the Enemy, till they were gotten to the very Place of their design'd Landing, *viz.* the Firth of *Edinburgh*; and when they were there, what did they do, nothing at all but prevent their Landing, they could not overtake them and fight them? — And are we in a Condition, think ye, to carry on this War? No, no, we must make Peace, we must shut up the War, set a full Stop to our farther Pursuit of the Debate, and let the Nation rest? —Well, and to do this is the Difficulty now—No Difficulty at all, Gentlemen, do but choose a few *High-Flyers*, a few *Bromleys*, *Packeys*, *Buckleys*, and *Finchleys*, they will make a Peace for us presently; but these *Whigs* have no End with them, they have begun a War with us, and they never know when to make an End.

And now I have nam'd some *Polish* Kind of People to you, it puts me in Mind, how some of that Part of the World's Counsellors did effectually act such a Case as this on that side, I mean K. *Augustus*'s Friends in *Germany*: He was an obstinate, a fighting, a resolute Prince, and tho' he was reduc'd to some Extremeties, would not make Peace without insisting, as we pretend to do, upon Terms and Conditions; but some of his *Tory*, *High-Flying* Counsellors, better knowing what belong'd to Things than he, they made a Peace for him, and forc'd him to comply with it.

What tho' it left his Enemy in Possession of his Country, and gave them Time to remain there till they had eat it quite up; what tho' it gave his Enemy Leave to set his Foot upon his Neck, and use him at his absolute Disposal; what tho', some say, it was the most abject and dishonourable Treaty that ever was made? Come, come, Gentlemen, it was a PEACE, and Peace with Poverty is better than War and Wealth; and let this be our Case, and it will let us have *Peace*. Now if you will but choose *Tories*, they will make Peace with *France* for you presently. What if it be *a la mode de Saxe*; what if the *French* keep *Spain*, and King *Charles* III. is sent Home to *Vienna* or *Naples*, *Sicily* and *Millain* given him to be quiet; what if we do drop a little of our Trade that way; what if we should give over making Bayes at *Colchester*, or Perpets at *Sudbury*, or Whites at *Exeter*, or Clothes in *Gloucestershire*, and the *French* should get a little of our Trade away from us, we should get *Peace* in the Room of these Things. Inestimable *Peace*, invaluable *Peace*, and as in *Saxony*, when the *French* have eaten us up, they will leave us in profound empty Peace.

I might run on here in the due Praise of Peace, and look back upon the many Encomiums, I have given it in former Papers, how I have extoll'd it as the best Blessing this Nation can enjoy, and which it so much wants; I could set it in Opposition to all our other Enjoyments, such as Commerce, Freeholds, Law, Liberty and Religion, and see how much it excells them all; I could use Abundance of Arguments to press you to put a Value upon it, and not puzzle your Thoughts so much upon Conditions, and refusing Peace for Want of the Circumstantials we have been talking of; but I wave that.

We have certainly, if the *Tories* are in the Right, been mad in prosecuting the Thing we call Glory in this War, and pursuing Peace under the aboresaid borrow'd Names, and being so much convinc'd my self in this Matter, I purpose shortly to present you with a Satyr against the Duke of *M——gh*, who according to Mr. *S—s* was certainly brib'd by the *French* to win the Victory at *Ramellies*, that he might pursue his own Steps of Peace.

But to let that pass, I think, I have shewn you the *shortest Way* to Peace; the honest true-born *Tory* will do this for you presently *off hand*, as we say, do but choose him Parliament Man, the Work is done, and after that, choose who you will, a Shock-Dog, or any thing, there will be no Danger of any farther Mischief.

There are some other Advantages, which choosing a *Tory* Parliament will procure us, such as Party Peace at Home, by treading that Sathan of *Whiggism*, and the Faction of Liberty under Foot at Home, and restoring the former happy Times, which this Nation enjoy'd a little before the Revolution; but I hope, I have said enough to open your Eyes to a true Choice, and there I leave it.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ALL those, who have Debts due from King *William*, King *James*, and King *Charles*, since the Restauration, for which no Provision hath been hitherto made by the Government, are desir'd to meet at the *Star Coffee-house* in *Downing Street* near *Whitehall*, any *Tuesday* or *Fryday* in the Afternoon; where Preparation is made for Proposals to the ensuing Parliament, of such Funds as will no way Clogg her Majesty's Revenues nor burthen the Subject by any Tax; but will on the Contrary be very grateful to her most Sacred Majesty, who (as we are fully Assur'd) is very desirous that these Debts should be paid; and it is hoped that what is design'd to be offer'd will be satisfactory to the Parliament. It is therefore expedient, that an Account be perfectly taken of every particular Person's Demands from the Government; and that the Persons concern'd do bring or send their Claim, that an Exact Scrutiny may be made thereinto, and a Register kept, how and upon what Account the said Debt became due, and to whom it is descended at this time; that it may be ready to be produced to the Parliament, who will be fully satisfy'd in every particular; both as to Quantity and Quality, before they make any Proceedings. To the end therefore that all Matters may be in a Readiness, and that the Proceedings may be with generall Approbation and Consent, this Meeting is appointed by some of the Persons concern'd; where Those who live at a distance may appear by their Friends.

THE famous GOUT ANTIDOTE, that by Bathing only has lately cured so many Persons afflicted with the most violent Raging Pains of the Gout and Rheumatism, restoring them to Compleat and perfect Ease to a miracle, (as will be attested at Mr. Allcrafts, one of the Places of Sale) and that hath been experienc'd by thousands who have been cured by it, to be the only Remedy capable to give present Relief in the utmost Extremity, or almost distracting Torturing Pains of the Gout and Rhematism, when all other means have been used in vain: It most infallibly takes away all manner of Pain in less than half an Hours time to admiration; and not only takes off a Fit for the present, but also prevents it returning again, and most certainly keeps the Gout from the Stomach. Is Sold only at Mr. Allcraft's a Toy-Shop, at the Blue-Coat Boy against the Royal Exchange in Cornhill, and at Mr. Brook's, Stationer, at the Ship near the May-Pole in the Strand, at 3 s. 6 d. a Bottle with Directions.